AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A swimmer's starting platform assembly comprising:

an anchor portion for fixed mounting relative to a swimming area and a removable starting platform portion for use during swimming events;

said portions having respective cylindrical mating elements for initial engagement at any arbitrary angular orientation, said anchor portion cylindrical mating element being an open ended cylindrical bore, and said starting platform portion cylindrical mating element being a cylindrical support post sized for mating engagement within the cylindrical bore of the anchor portion; and

said portions having respective mating key elements for fixing the mating engagement of said portions at a desired angular orientation when fully engaged,

~~The invention of claim 2 wherein~~ the anchor portion key element ~~comprises~~ comprising a slot in the open end of the anchor bore and the starting platform portion mating key element ~~comprises~~ comprising a pin projecting from the starting platform cylindrical support post.

4. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim [[2]] 3 wherein an interior diameter of the cylindrical bore is within a tolerance of approximately three thousands of an inch relative to an exterior diameter of the starting platform cylindrical support post.

5. (Currently Amended) A swimmer's starting platform assembly comprising:

an anchor portion for fixed mounting relative to a swimming area and a removable starting platform portion for use during swimming events;

said portions having respective cylindrical mating elements for initial engagement at any arbitrary angular orientation, said anchor portion cylindrical mating element being an open ended cylindrical bore, and said starting platform portion cylindrical mating element being a cylindrical support post sized for mating engagement within the cylindrical bore of the anchor portion; and said portions having respective mating key elements for fixing the mating engagement of said portions at a desired angular orientation when fully engaged, ~~The invention of claim 2 wherein~~ the anchor portion key element ~~comprises~~ comprising a pair of opposed slots in the open end of the anchor portion and the starting platform portion mating key element ~~comprises~~ comprising a pair of opposing pins projecting from the cylindrical support post.

6. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim [[2]] 3 wherein the starting platform portion further comprises a diving platform affixed to the cylindrical support post.

7. (Original) The invention of claim 6 wherein the starting platform portion further comprises a step affixed to the cylindrical support post.

8. (Original) The invention of claim 7 wherein the starting platform portion further comprises a backstroke bar affixed to the cylindrical support post.

9. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim [[2]] 3 wherein the starting platform portion further comprises a backstroke bar affixed to the cylindrical support post.

10. (Currently Amended) A swimmer's starting platform assembly comprising:

an anchor portion for fixed mounting relative to a swimming area and a removable starting platform portion for use during swimming events;

said portions having respective cylindrical mating elements for initial engagement at any arbitrary angular orientation, said anchor portion cylindrical mating element being an open ended cylindrical bore, and said starting platform portion cylindrical mating element being a cylindrical support post sized for mating engagement within the cylindrical bore of the anchor portion; and

said portions having respective mating key elements for fixing the mating engagement of said portions at a desired angular orientation when fully engaged, ~~The invention of claim 2 wherein~~ the starting platform portion mating key element ~~is~~ being a rod that extends through the cylindrical support post to form opposing pins that project from an outer surface of the cylindrical support post and the anchor portion key element ~~comprises~~ comprising two opposing slots in the open end of the anchor bore.

11. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim [[2]] 3 wherein the anchor portion and the cylindrical support post are made of stainless steel.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 13 wherein:~~ A method for deploying a swimmer's starting platform assembly having an anchor portion and a removable starting platform portion for use during swimming events comprising:

providing the anchor portion and the starting platform portion with respective cylindrical mating elements for initial engagement at any arbitrary angular orientation and respective mating key elements for fixing the mating engagement of said portions at a desired angular orientation when fully engaged, the cylindrical mating element provided for the anchor portion being an open ended cylindrical bore and the cylindrical mating element provided for the starting platform portion being a cylindrical support post sized for mating engagement within the cylindrical bore of the anchor portion, the mating key element provided for the anchor portion ~~is~~ being a slot defined in the open ended cylindrical bore and the mating key element provided for the starting platform portion ~~is~~ being a pin projecting at a selected location from the cylindrical support post sized for mating engagement within the slot of the anchor portion;~~ and;~~

securing the anchor portion at a selected location proximate a swimming area such that the anchor has a selected orientation relative to the swimming area;

initially engaging the cylindrical mating elements of the anchor portion and starting platform portion, the initial engagement of the respective portions comprising inserting the support post into the anchor portion bore; and

engaging the mating key elements of the anchor portion and starting platform portion to a fully engaged position, the ~~full engagement~~ engaging of the respective portions ~~comprises further~~ comprising inserting the support post into the anchor portion bore such that the support post pin becomes engaged in the anchor bore slot, whereby the starting platform portion is securely positioned for use with a desired orientation relative to the swimming area based on the selected orientation of the anchor.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

providing an anchor bore cover selectively configured for engagement with the anchor bore open end;

removing the support post portion from engagement with the anchor portion; and

engaging the anchor bore cover with the anchor bore open end.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[13]] 14 further comprising: providing an anchor bore cover selectively configured for engagement with the anchor bore open end;

removing the support post portion from engagement with the anchor portion; and

engaging the anchor bore cover with the anchor bore open end.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[13]] 14 wherein the securing the anchor portion at a selected location proximate a swimming area includes embedding the anchor portion in a pool deck such that the anchor bore opens upon a surface of the deck. ~~deck.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[12]] 14 wherein the securing the anchor portion at a selected location proximate a swimming area includes embedding the anchor portion in wet cement of a pool deck such that it does not protrude above the deck.